

# Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA)

Blue Box Regulation and Reporting Requirements



Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY

Office of  
Sustainability

# What is this regulation about?

- RPRA is a regulator for the Government of Ontario to enforce the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#) through [O. Reg. 391/21: Blue Box](#)
  - What changed? The way that producers report and pay for recycling.
    - **Before:** Stewardship Ontario, number of students enrolled.
    - **Now:** RPRA, actual amounts of materials that we produce.
  - From shared to full producer responsibility of paper products, packaging, and packaging-like products.
- What is a “producer?”
  - A person or **brandholder** that **supplies Blue Box material** ([packaging, paper products or packaging-like products](#)) comprised of paper, glass, metal or plastic, or a combination of these materials **to consumers in Ontario**.
  - ICI sector considered producers.
- This does not concern private waste collection that institutions are obligated to do, regulation **only pertains to provincial Blue Box system**.



# Material Thresholds

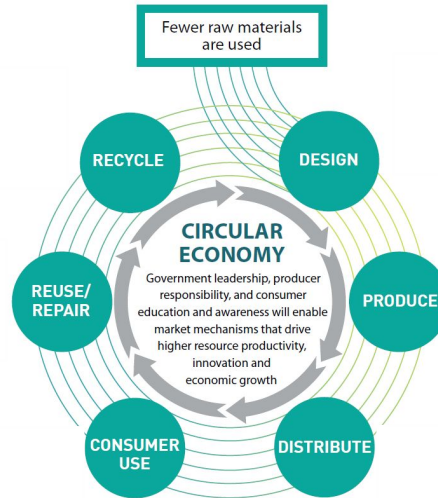
| Blue Box Material Category | Supply-based Exemption Level (kg) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Paper                      | 9,000                             |
| Rigid Plastic              | 2,000                             |
| Flexible Plastic           | 2,000                             |
| Glass                      | 1,000                             |
| Metal                      | 1,000                             |
| Beverage Containers        | 1,000                             |



# Why? The larger context.

## To support Ontario's adoption of a circular economy.

- Producer responsibility of materials is intended to incentivize the reduction and redesigning of products and packaging to be more sustainable.



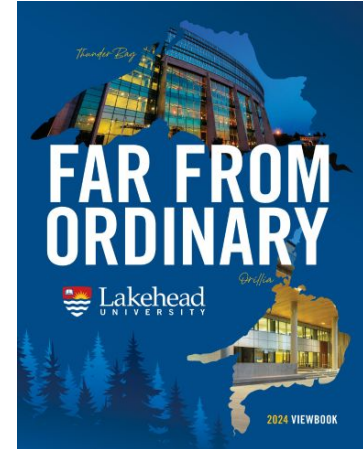
# What are we required to report?

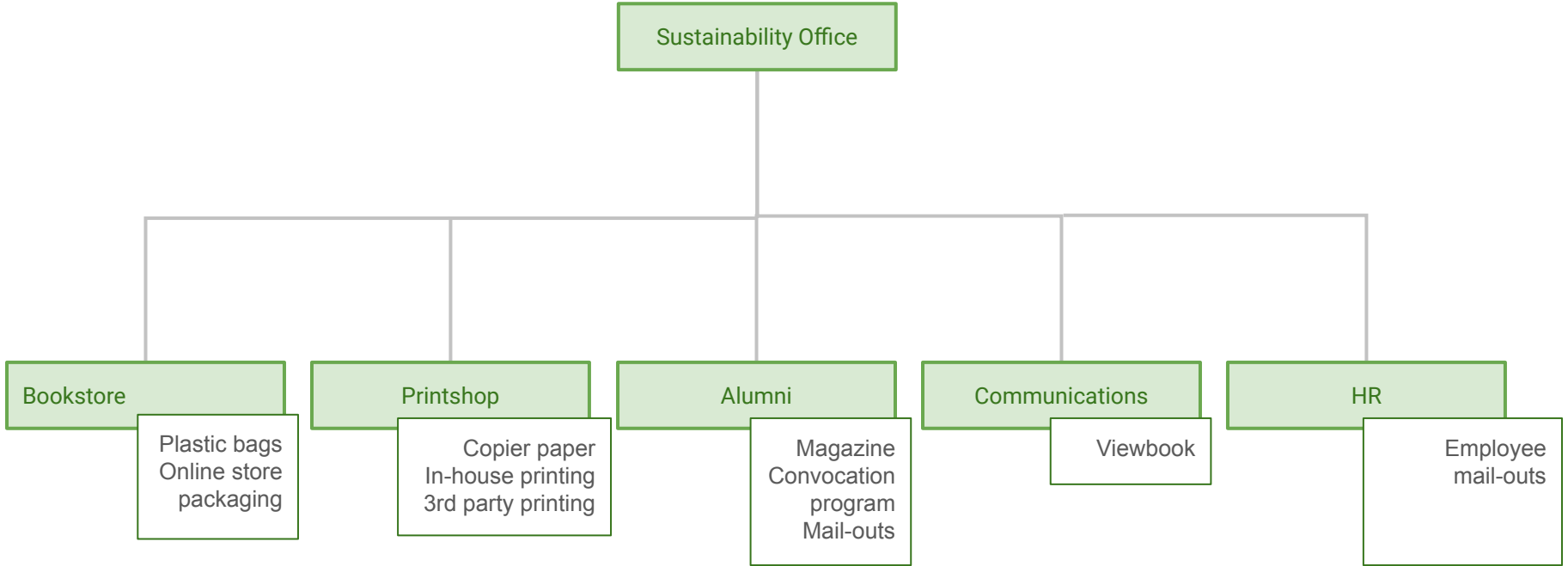
- **Supply data on the total weight of eligible materials that we produce and distribute to consumers in Ontario** (and that, therefore, could end up in the provincial Blue Box system).
  - Materials **must be branded to the University OR have no affiliated brand** (unbranded).
  - Materials must be for **consumer use in Ontario**.
- A “consumer” is defined under the [Blue Box Regulation](#) as individuals who use a “product and its packaging for personal, family, or household purposes”.
- Eligible materials:
  - paper (viewbooks, newsletters, faculty brochures, handbills, calendars, etc.),
  - beverage containers (only if single-use),
  - glass (jars),
  - flexible plastic (mailing envelopes, stickers),
  - rigid plastic (plastic containers),
  - metal (branded cans), and
  - certified compostable products and packaging (take-out containers, cutlery).



# What materials does Lakehead produce?

- MOSTLY paper products: viewbooks, faculty brochures, convocation program.
  - We likely produce some plastics and other materials through bookstore, alumni giveaways, etc. (bubble wrap, plastic bags).





# Reporting timelines and process

## Timelines

- Report on 2023 supply data by May 31, 2024.
- Starting in 2025 (2024 supply data), **annual reports are subject to a verification process.**
- Starting in 2027, required to **submit an audit for every three years of data.**

## Process

- No standard methodology for data supply.
- General process is to contact unit heads with data request memo from senior leadership.
  - Follow-up group zoom calls for clarification.
  - Collate reported data using standard paper weights (with exceptions for other materials).
- Expect that not all material is being tracked, 2023 supply data year gives time to educate units on this annual process so that 2024 supply data (subject to verification) is more accurate.





# What do we have to do?

- Report on supply data annually
- Pay program fees
- Pay producer fees (hire a PRO) - 2022 supply data year: Approximately \$8,000 (31 cents/kg - 211 cents/kg)

## Program fees:

| Production Level  | Fee                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 50,000 kg or less | \$90 flat fee to the RPRA |
| >50,000 kg        | \$0.0062 per kg           |



# Reporting ask of units

Initial request:

| Document Name   | Paper Size   | Number of Pages Per Document  | Quantity   | Data Quality   | Notes   |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <i>Enter a complete list of each paper document provided to consumers for household purposes from your department. I.e. Faculty brochures, posters, viewbooks, etc.</i> | <i>Use the drop-down menu to select the appropriate size of paper.<br/><br/>If selecting other, please send a sample of your document to Ledah McKellar.</i> | <i>Enter the number of pages i.e. recruitment brochure = 10 pages, event poster = 1 page.<br/><br/>NOTE: If double sided printing then count only 1 page per double-sided printed page.</i> | <i>Enter the # of copies printed for consumers in Ontario.</i> | <i>Use the drop-down menu to select whether the data is actual or an estimation.</i> | <i>Please include any relevant notes about your data entry.</i> |
| <i>Example: Viewbooks</i>   | Standard letter ▼  | 6000  | 30,000   | We have the data for 2023 ▼  |   |



# Reporting ask of units

Initial request:

| Material                           | Do you distribute any of the following single-use disposable products or packaging? (Eligible products include those branded with the Lakehead Logo, or products with no logo).<br><br>Please reply "yes" or "no". If you replied "yes", follow-up contact will be made. |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Plastic                            |  |
| Metal                              |  |
| Glass                              |  |
| Compostable Products and Packaging |  |



# What materials are included?

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Packaging-like Products</b> | Aluminum Foil<br>Plastic Film<br>Plastic Bag<br>Wrapping Paper<br>Beverage Cup<br>Envelope | <b>Additional Characteristics:</b><br>Used for containment, protection, handling, delivery, presentation or transportation of thing/s<br>Meant for single use<br>Not used as packaging when supplied to end user |
|--------------------------------|--|--|

# What materials are included?

All materials in the following categories that are supplied to a consumer (an individual using a product or packaging for personal, family, or household purposes) in Ontario.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Paper Products</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newspaper</li><li>• Magazine</li><li>• Promotional Material</li><li>• Directories</li><li>• Paper (copy, writing, general use, etc.)</li></ul>  |
| <b>Blue Box Packaging</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary packaging (cardboard, plastic, cardboard tray for case of pop, etc.)</li><li>• Transport packaging (pallets, bale wrap, etc.)</li><li>• Convenience packaging (supplied to end-user to ease handling - bag, box, etc.)</li><li>• Service accessories (straw, cutlery, plate, etc.)</li><li>• Ancillary elements (integrated elements - a cap, mascara brush, toy on top of candy package, etc.)</li></ul> |